



WELLESLEY NATURAL
RESOURCES COMMISSION

Insights from Outside

June 2019

When at First You Succeed, Do It Again!



We caught up with **Vaani Kapoor** (center), recent Wellesley Middle School graduate, who has led two successful plastic cleanups along Route 9! With help from her father Vikas Kapoor and her sister Ayesha, Vaani organized a group of her friends to pick up plastic litter and trash in her neighborhood. Vaani was inspired to make a positive change in Wellesley after a family trip to India where she witnessed first hand people living in polluted and trash-filled environments. Seeing these conditions spurred her into action upon her return home. Vaani has since expanded her mission to include educating the public on ways to reduce, reuse, and recycle plastics. She hopes to establish monthly plastic litter removal events, create a school assembly to educate her peers, urge local businesses to eliminate plastic takeout cartons and utensils, encourage students to use reusable water bottles at school, and find alternatives to

Girl Scout Teaches the Value of Trees



For her Silver Award Project, Girl Scout **Kathryn Fischmann** took to the trails to teach visitors about the value of trees at this year's [Cronk's Rocky Woodland Spring Open Garden](#). Kathryn led garden attendees through the sanctuary trail and affixed "tree nutrition" labels to trees which state the benefit each tree provides, such as the annual amounts of runoff filtered and carbon sequestered. Kathryn used the i-Tree MyTree app to create the tree nutrition labels specific to each tree by inputting information on trunk diameter, species, and condition of tree. She learned how to use the app and tree nutrition labels from Lisa Moore, Environmental Education and Outreach Coordinator at the NRC. Kathryn then decided to share what she learned with others so they could understand the value every tree provides to the community.

plastic utensils and packaging in school lunches.

Vaani, we thank you for your work on behalf of our town and environment! We invite residents who would like to lead or join a similar effort to [contact us](#).

Business Owners: Help clean up Route 9 and get credit for your efforts by "Adopting a Highway." Learn more about the State's program [here](#), and [contact the NRC](#) to partner with us.

Congratulations and thanks to Kathryn on her completion of this important project!

Cronk's Rocky Woodland is one of [ten sanctuaries](#) maintained by the Wellesley Conservation Council, Wellesley's private, non-profit land trust and conservation education organization incorporated in 1958.

For more information about this year's tree planting efforts, see this [article](#) from the Swellesley report.

Bates Students Are Really Growing



Bates students have been learning all about plants! Six classrooms worked with NRC board member and ecologist Katie Griffith, Master Gardener Jing Jiang, and Environmental Education and Outreach Coordinator Lisa Moore to learn about what plants need to grow, why plants are important, and the life cycle of plants from seed to mature plant. Students planted seeds in starter trays in their classrooms, nurtured the seedlings as they sprouted, then planted them in their outdoor garden. These budding farmers planted both vegetables and pollinator-friendly plants, and are experimenting with different plant cages to discourage pests. The students will get to maintain the garden and harvest vegetables until the summer.

Project Based Learning to Protect Boulder Brook



We were back at Bates for the 5th grade project based learning presentations this week. The students researched threats to the Boulder Brook Reservation, including invasive species, water contamination from pesticides and fertilizers, and human activity such as littering, fires, and vandalism. One group created their own watershed model to demonstrate to parents, school staff, and other students how harmful chemicals travel through the environment. Another group made this great [website](#). They all did a fantastic job, and we loved learning from them on this project!

Centennial Reservation Trail Improved



North 40 Vernal Pool Boardwalk Project Nearing Completion

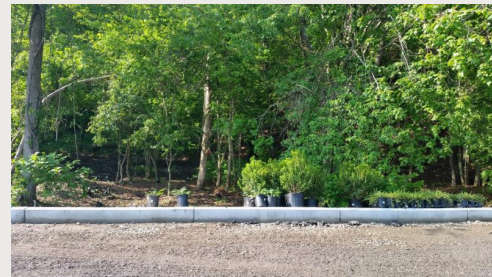


The North 40 Vernal Pool Boardwalk project is in the very final phase of construction as volunteers busily put the finishing touches on this exciting project. Once complete, the DPW will return to complete the grading where the boardwalk meets the path to facilitate accessibility. Watch for the grand opening and Vernal Pool Party coming soon!



The [Wellesley Trails Committee](#) and the [Wellesley DPW](#) recently completed a trail relocation project to improve the Centennial Reservation upper meadow trail. The trail was rerouted to counter severe erosion, decrease steepness, and improve footing and drainage. At the top of the meadow a new Trails Committee-sponsored bench was installed for viewing the Blue Hills, the highest point in the greater Boston area. Please enjoy the new trail by keeping within the markers.

Wetlands Restoration at 900 Worcester Street Sports Complex



As the new sports complex at 900 Worcester Street readies to open its doors, the work required as part of the Wetlands Protection permitting is underway. The final phase of the habitat restoration plan includes the removal of numerous invasive species and the addition of over 200 native plants. For several days, crews cut and bagged [buckthorn](#) and [honeysuckle](#), removed [Oriental bittersweet](#) vines, and pulled out [barberry](#) shrubs. The removal of these invasive plants will help ensure the survival of the native plants so the resource area can provide stormwater relief and valuable wildlife habitat.

Upcoming NRC Meetings:

- Thursday June 20th: 7 PM, Warren Building Room 008
- Monday June 24th: Time/location TBD. Joint Board of Selectmen/NRC meeting

Upcoming Wetlands Meetings:

- Thursday June 20th: 6:30 PM, Kingsbury Room, Wellesley Police Station

Upcoming Trails Meetings:

- Tuesday June 18th: 7:00 PM, NRC Office, Wellesley Town Hall

**Connect with us**

Town of Wellesley Natural Resources Commission

Phone: 781-431-1019 x 2294

Email: nrc@wellesleyma.gov

Website: www.wellesleyma.gov/nrc